

DATE: 3-1  
To

Hon. Steve Henson  
March 22, 2019  
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If an illegal immigrant has a child here, that child is a citizen (the Constitution is clear that if you are born in the United States, you are a citizen). That citizen child can then get Medicaid and WIC. But the government programs are for the citizen child, not for the illegal immigrant parent, even though illegal immigrants may receive ancillary benefits from their children's government programs (food purchased with a WIC voucher can feed an adult just as well as it can feed a child, for instance).

Twenty-six states (not Georgia) make immigrants eligible for state-funded benefit programs. Most of these states either offer assistance to families or provide access to healthcare to otherwise uninsured immigrants. Examples of these programs are New York's Safety Net Assistance, California's CalFresh Food Assistance Program, and California's Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI).

Here's a partial list of benefits illegal immigrants in Georgia and many other states **do not** receive:

Children's Health Insurance (CHIP)

Disability, aka Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Food stamps, aka The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Health insurance, aka insurance via Obamacare

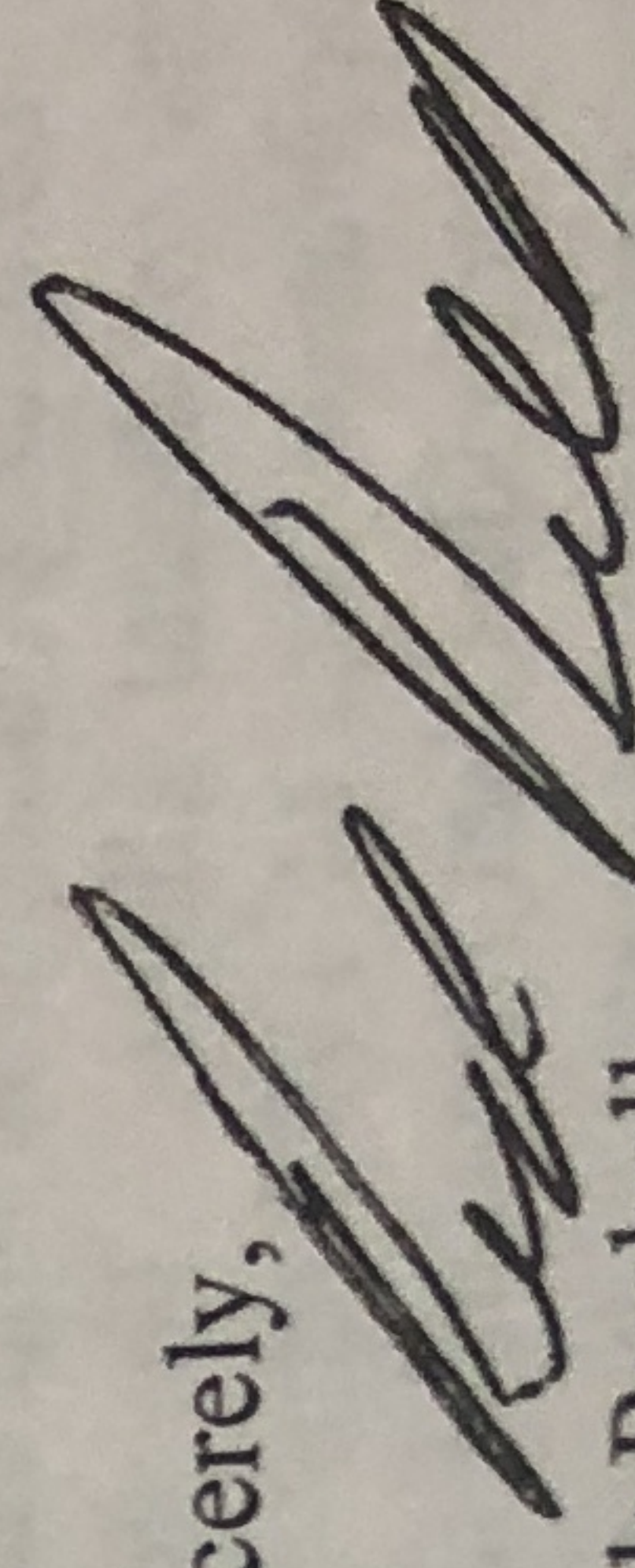
Medicare

Social Security

It is clear that HB 481 would allow, and perhaps require, the state to begin paying some of these public benefits to an unborn child upon the detection of a fetal heartbeat. In turn, it would be impossible to deny that ancillary benefits under these programs would inure to the benefit of the illegal immigrant parents of such a child.

I hope this letter has been responsive to your request.

Sincerely,



Rick Ruskell  
Legislative Counsel